
SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

Volume 28 Issue 06

Web Site <http://www.collinsclubs.com/rcarc/>

March 2007

RCARC Membership Meeting

Thursday
22 March 2007
1730 in
Rockwell Collins
Cafeteria

Subject: Wouffhong and Propagation
by Bill Swan, K5MWC

Local Club News

W5ROK Membership Renewals!

If you have not renewed your membership and need an application form, please contact Joe Wolf, N5UIC, at 972.705.1388.

8-9 June 2007: Ham-Comm 2007

Make plans now to attend Ham-Com 2007, June 8-9, at the Plano Centre in Plano, TX. Online admission sales began January 1 on the redesigned web site, www.hamcom.org. The web site features a new format that enables users to quickly find what they need.

Here Is What's New For Ham-Com 2007:

- ALL parking is on-site and FREE! Up-to-date event information will be broadcast on 87.9 FM (via your car radio at the site).
- Registration is online (\$7.00) or at event door (\$10.00). No mail or FAX registrations, please!
- The tailgate market will be closer to the Plano Centre west entrance.

➤ There is a three (3) table limit for the indoor flea market. This will allow more people to offer items for sale.

Here Are Some Important Dates To Remember:

- January 1: Admission sales begin
- February 1: Flea Market registration begins
- February 15: Commercial exhibitor packets due!
- February 28: Registration and grand prize announcement
- March 1: Lone Star DX Association program announcement
- April 1: Program listing available online
- May 1: Ham-Com Flyer Event Edition online

Ham-Com 2007 will feature a full schedule of speakers, workshops and special-interest group meetings. We will continue to place more emphasis on youth education and club activities.

Please visit our web site at www.hamcom.org and get all of the details!

KENNEDY, CHARLES H. (CHUCK) W5BAW, SK



Born Oct. 7, 1937 and passed away March 3, 2007. Resided in Richardson, Texas for over 30 years. Mr. Kennedy is preceded in death by his parents, Emmett and Mary Kennedy. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Yvonne; children, David (Lisa); Patricia (Richard); Michael (Lisa); Julie (Wayne); and Christopher; grandchildren, Christopher, Sydney, Cameron, Heather and Cory; and a brother and sister. A re-

tired, 20-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force and an amateur radio enthusiast, W5BAW, he will be missed by family and friends. Funeral Services will be held at 12:00 P.M. Friday, March 9, 2007 at Metrocrest Funeral Home, 1810 N. Perry Rd., Carrollton, TX

A Simple No-Holes Cable Entry Panel

by Bill Savage K3AN

Don't drill holes through your walls. Try this approach instead My wife and I have moved quite often. At each new QTH it has been a given that, in the process of installing my station and getting the cables outside to the antennas, I don't make any irreversible modifications to the house. In exchange, I can use an approach that's not the most attractive or low-profile. The only requirement is that it keeps the bugs out. If you have a single- or double-hung window in your ham shack, you might want to consider the approach described here.

The materials needed include a length of 1 x 3 pine or other wood, a roll of the foil tape used by HVAC installers, and a roll of adhesive-backed foam insulation. These are all available at any home improvement center. You'll also need one or more two-inch coaxial barrel connectors.

I use an SGC auto-tuner with my 130-foot inverted-L. It requires 12 Volts DC. I bought a 2-conductor weatherproof trailer light connector set from an auto supply store for the 12-Volt feed to the outside. The Anderson Power Pole connectors that I use for all my station's DC wiring are not suitable for continuous outdoor use. In the photo below, you see how I convert from the Power Poles to the trailer light connector. The identical (Cont. on page 3)

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VE SESSIONS

Dallas tests are held 4th Sat of each month at 10:00. 13350 Floyd Rd. (Old Credit Union) Contact Bob West, WA8YCD (972) 917-6362

Irving tests are held 3rd Sat. of each month at 09:00. 5th and Main St. Contact Bill Revis, KF5BL 252-8015

McKinney VE test sessions are held at the Heard Museum the first Sunday of the month. The address is 1 Nature Place, McKinney TX. The time of the testing is 14:30, ending no later than 16:45. *Note: no tests given on holiday weekends.*

Garland testing is held on the fourth Thursday of each month, excluding November, and begins at 1930 sharp. Location is Freeman Heights Baptist Church, 1120 N Garland Ave, Garland (between W Walnut and Buckingham Rd). Enter via the north driveway. A HUGE parking lot is located behind the church. Both the parking lot and the Fellowship Hall are located on the east side of the church building, with big signs by the entrance door. Contact Bill Reynolds, K8DNE, 972-475-3854.

Plano testing is on the third Saturday of each month, 1300 hrs at Williams High School, 1717 17th St. East Plano. Check Repeater 147.180+ for announcements.

Greenville testing is on the Saturday after 3rd Thursday, 1000 hrs at site TBA, contact N5KA, 903.364.5306. Sponsor is Sabine Valley ARA. Repeater 146.780(-) with 118.8 tone.

Wills Point Call Don W5QXK at 972-932-3595

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President's Message

The events of 9/11, Hurricanes Rita and Katrina among other major events brought to Amateur Radio the visibility at a national level of how valuable the Amateur Service is. Recognition at the highest levels of government has and will serve Amateur Radio well in terms of support and protection of the spectrum that we are privileged to use. While these are all very positive for our service it also means that we need to be sure that we are prepared and organized to answer the call again. In that light the ARRL chartered a committee in January of 2006 to examine the current field organization to see what needs to be done to ensure that we are ready for especially a broad geographic area event. Since the ARES is the ARRL field organization responsible for emergency communications much of the focus was on the ARES. The report was delivered to the Board of Directors in January of this year. I would encourage all of the RCARC members to become familiar with that report. You can obtain a copy of the report from the ARRL Web site.

The eBoard has acted on several of the important items reported to the membership at the last meeting and also included in this newsletter. We will be bringing those recommendations to the attention of the members at the 22 March meeting. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a synopsis of those recommendations which I encourage you to read so that you will be prepared to ask any questions that you may have as well being equipped to vote on the recommendations.

Do you know someone that you work with that is an amateur radio operator or has expressed an interest in amateur radio? If so I hope that you will take a moment and let them know about the RCARC. Invite them to a meeting, take them down to the station and show them our web site. With the influx of new employees this should be an opportunity for us to grow the active employee membership base of the RCARC.

Remember our meeting is coming up on the 22nd of March. See you there.

ARRL membership up for renewal or new application? See information elsewhere in this edition to get more information on

how your membership application can be made through the club. Your club receives a commission for all renewals or new memberships that we process.

Well it is time to say 73s.

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Bill Swan,
K5MWC, President

Secretary's Report

Bill Swan, K5MWC, opened the eBoard meeting at 1730 (3-01-07), in the RCI Cafeteria. Present at the meeting were:

Dennis Cobb	WA8ZBT
Jim Gaston	KD5GYD
Bob Kirby	K3NT
Steve Phillips	K6JT
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
Bill Swan	K5MWC
Joe Wolf	N5UIC

The following business was conducted:

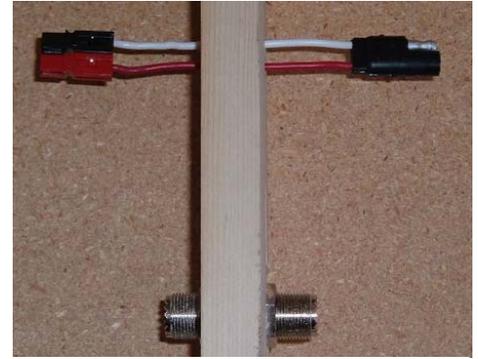
1. Meeting Overview
 - a. Bill Swan, K5MWC, briefly reviewed the agenda
2. Replacement Transceiver Committee Report
 - a. The committee presented a matrix comparing the FT-2000 and IC-756PROIII. The committee recommended the FT-2000 (with DMU-2000) over the ICOM primarily due to its contesting capabilities.
 - b. The treasurer's report was circulated to review the impact of the committee's recommendation on the clubs funds.
 - c. After reviewing the committee's recommendation and discussing the various trade-offs, the E-Board agreed that the FT-2000 is preferred; however the DMU-2000 extension may not provide sufficient benefit to justify the additional expense.
 - d. The E-Board's decision is to recommend the FT-2000 without the DMU-2000.
3. Replacement Computer Status
 - a. Acquiring retired company PC's for use by the club is still being pursued.
4. 30S-1 Sell Price Committee Report

- a. Jim Skinner, WB0UNI, reported his research on recent selling prices of 30S-1 units
 - i. \$500 to \$2,125 with an average of around \$1,500
 - ii. Units in Excellent Condition have sold for up to \$2,800
- b. Recommended Target Sell Price: \$~1500.00 up to \$2800.00 (based on the condition of our unit)
- c. The E-Board decided that the best way to determine the condition of the club's 30S-1 would be to use the S-Line to drive the amps output into a load. This would allow all testing to be performed in the radio room. However, it will require re-tapping the 30S-1's transformer to use 115V power.

5. New Membership Application Form
 - a. Joe Wolf, N5UIC, presented a new membership application form. The E-Board approved the new form with a few minor changes that were recommended to clarify some content.
6. Other Business
 - a. Bill Swan, K5MWC, announced that Dave Jaksa, W0VX, has offered to purchase the new radio for the club, and be reimbursed. The E-Board agreed to purchase the radio through Dave if he can obtain a better price.
 - b. Joe Wolf, N5UIC, opened a brief discussion on increasing employee awareness of the club through signs located throughout the building and possibly an informational flyer which could be provided to new employees. Another suggestion was made to email all new-hires information about the club in an effort to recruit during the company's upcoming ramp up.

The meeting adjourned at 1915

A Simple No-Holes Cable Entry Panel (*Cont. from page 1*) other half of the trailer light connector is attached to the DC cable going to the SGC.



Start by opening the window and measuring the inside width of the window frame. Cut the wood to this length and verify that it's a good fit. Now you can drill the wood for the barrel connector(s). If you need to get other wires outside, you should drill the holes just large enough to pass a single wire through. I suggest drilling them at a downward angle to the outside so that water (from rain or dew) doesn't readily "wick" into the holes.

Once all holes have been drilled and the barrel connectors and any other cables have been installed, the board can be put into position. Then you're ready to install the bug proofing. I place foil tape all the way around the perimeter on both inside and outside (shown) so it contacts both the frame and the wood. DON'T use duct tape! It's not very weather-resistant, and it leaves a messy residue of adhesive when you remove it. The foil tape adheres well, yet comes off cleanly with only a trace of adhesive residue.



Since the window is partially open, you now have a gap between the glass in the lower sash and the frame of the upper sash (or the fixed frame of a single-hung window). Use the foam insulation to plug this gap, making sure you also plug any side gaps between the sash and the frame track. The actual strip of installed insulation is partly visible along the upper edge

of the sash. I left the remnant of the insulation roll in the picture, resting on the sash, so you can see what the product is.



With this arrangement, air infiltration is minimal and bug infiltration is zilch. If you live in an area where it's really cold in the winter, you may want to better insulate that upper gap. But for the temperate climate of my upstate South Carolina QTH, I think the foam is sufficient.

I live in a gated community of retirees, so I'm not particularly worried about break-ins. If that's a concern for you, it would be an easy task to cut a length of wood to snugly fit between the top of the open sash and the top of the window frame to form a sort of "charley bar." If your window is equipped with a security sensor (such as a magnetic reed switch), and/or home security is a significant issue with you or your family, then further effort or an entirely different approach may be needed.

For a very small investment in time and money, you can replicate what I've described here. And when the time comes to sell the house and move on, it will take just a couple of minutes to remove the installation.

(Reprinted courtesy eHam.net website)

3900 Saturdays The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday mornings. Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the unbounded joy of not having to be at work. Either way, the first few hours of a Saturday morning are most enjoyable.

A few weeks ago, I was shuffling toward the garage with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning turned into one of those lessons

that life seems to hand you from time to time. Let me tell you about it:

I turned the dial up into the phone portion of the band on my ham radio in order to listen to a Saturday morning swap net. Along the way, I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the kind; he sounded like he should be in the broadcasting business. He was telling whomever he was talking with something about "a thousand marbles." I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to say.

"Well, Tom, it sure sounds like you're busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow should have to work sixty or seventy hours a week to make ends meet. It's too bad you missed your daughter's "dance recital" he continued. "Let me tell you something that has helped me keep my own priorities." And that's when he began to explain his theory of a "thousand marbles."

"You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years.

"Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3900, which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in their entire lifetime. Now, stick with me, Tom, I'm getting to the important part.

"It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any detail", he went on, "and by that time I had lived through over twenty-eight hundred Saturdays." "I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy. So I went to a toy store and bought every single marble they had. I ended up having to visit three toy stores to round up 1000 marbles. I took them home and put them inside a large, clear plastic container right here in the shack next to my gear."

"Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away. I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life.

There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help get your priorities straight."

"Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure that if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time."

"It was nice to meet you Tom, I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. This is a 75 Year old Man, K9NZQ, clear and going QRT, good morning!"

You could have heard a pin drop on the ham radio band when this fellow signed off.

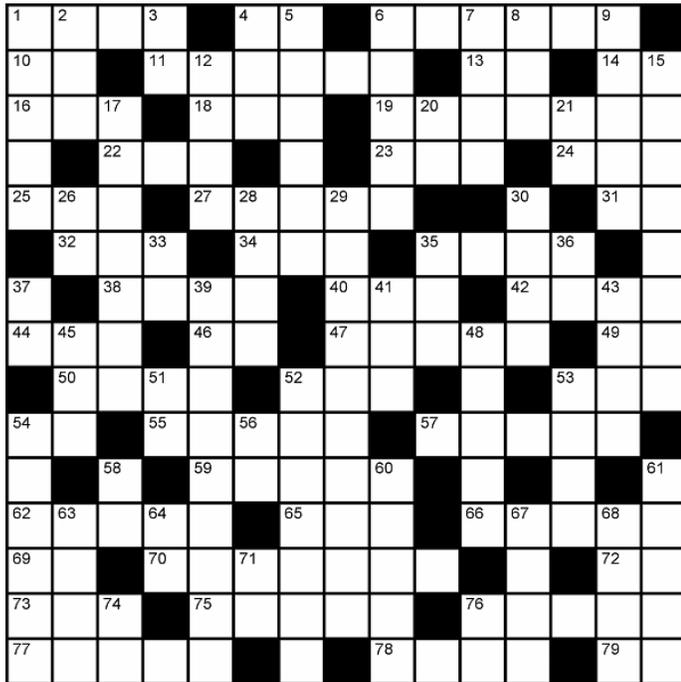
I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few hams to work on the next club newsletter.

Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss. "C'mon honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast." "What brought this on?" she asked with a smile. "Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. And hey, can we stop at a toy store while we're out? I need to buy some marbles.

Classified Ads

Radio Repair, Kit Building, Antenna and Computer Help. Free Estimates; Contact Bob Kirby K3NT at k3nt@arrl.net

The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler



Across

- 1. Break down
- 4. Smaller than a tbsp
- 6. Hottest state of matter
- 10. Ham band monitor
- 11. Short duration error
- 13. Too much (abbr)
- 14. Between UT and CA
- 16. Display tube
- 18. Person that controls the radio (abbr)
- 19. Sum divided by the number of individual values
- 22. DC equivalent of ac voltage
- 23. Mobile phone text service (abbr)
- 24. Leave the frequency (CW abbr)
- 25. Measure of solar activity (abbr)
- 27. Track of electron beam on the display
- 31. ... tu Brutus?
- 32. Sequence of instructions (abbr)
- 34. Noting a personal observation (abbr)
- 35. Rapidly switch between channels during a single display cycle
- 38. Amplification factor
- 40. Document agreeing to cooperation (abbr)
- 42. Round and flat and thin
- 44. Event in which matter is thrown off from the Sun
- 46. Bad (abbr)
- 47. Short, rectangular signal
- 49. Prefix of a ham in Moscow

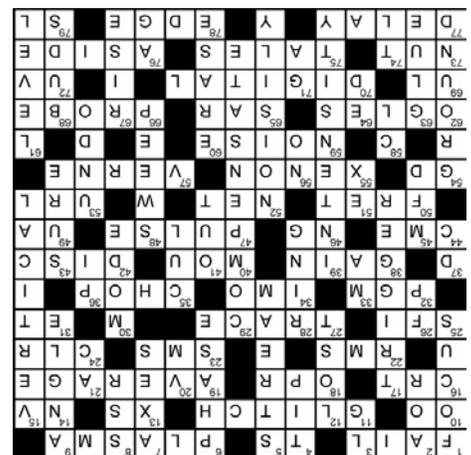
- 70. Scope that converts signals to data before display
- 72. Radiation that ionizes the ionosphere
- 73. Companion to a screw
- 75. Stories
- 76. Move away a short distance
- 77. Hold off the display for a short period
- 78. A sudden signal transition
- 79. Level of the ocean (abbr)

Down

- 1. To make a display sharper
- 2. Maker of digital voice modems
- 3. Big (abbr)
- 4. What touches the signal on 66 Across
- 5. Continuous flow
- 6. Signal's angular measurement
- 7. X and Y
- 8. Relay made of semiconductors
- 9. Measured in degrees
- 12. Misplaced
- 15. Amplitude axis
- 17. Start a display cycle
- 20. Measures potential (abbr)
- 21. Coupling that blocks dc
- 26. Prefix of French colony near Canada
- 28. Oscillate after a transition
- 29. Adjust frequency response
- 30. Style of operation
- 33. A pico-giga-amp (abbr)
- 35. Wish for another contact (CW abbr)
- 36. Transcendental number

- 50. Worry
- 52. On-the-air meeting
- 53. Web address
- 54. Opposite of 46 Across
- 55. Noble gas used in flash tubes
- 57. A 20,000 League kind of guy
- 59. Random signal variations
- 62. Stares lavishly, such as at a new rig
- 65. Rate at which RF heats tissue (abbr)
- 66. Connects oscilloscope to circuit being tested
- 69. Safety lab (abbr)
- 37. Steady voltage
- 39. Display brightness control
- 41. Source of a signal
- 43. Confident
- 45. Old abbreviation for uF
- 48. Movement across the display
- 51. Prefix meaning "no longer"
- 52. How a loud blower moves air
- 53. Take apart
- 54. Connect to a zero voltage reference
- 56. Opposite of NC
- 58. Terminating operation (CW abbr)
- 60. Clear a display
- 61. Amplitude
- 63. Sticks stuff together
- 64. Person that reviews text (abbr)
- 67. Transition to a higher amplitude
- 68. This is for you
- 71. Wire size (abbr)
- 74. Prefix of the Central African Republic
- 76. Most conductive metal (chemical symbol)

Solution to this month's Puzzler



Rockwell-Collins

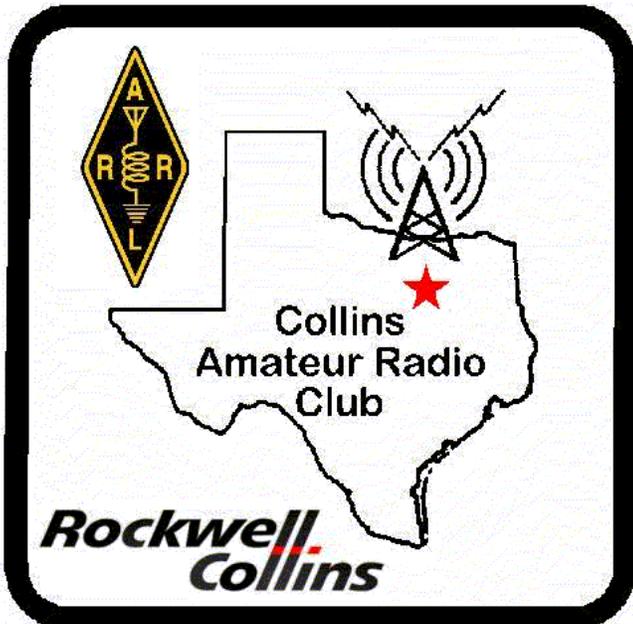
Amateur Radio Club

Mail Station 461-290

P.O. Box 833807

Richardson, TX 75083-3807

TO:



CLUB STATIONS

(972) 705-1349

W5ROK REPEATER

441.875 MHz +5 MHz Input

131.8 Hz PL - RX and TX

W5ROK-1 PACKET BBS ROK Node

145.01 MHz

MEETING

Thursday 22 March 2007

17:30

Rockwell Collins Cafeteria

**NEXT SIGNALS DEADLINE:
16 April 2007**